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December 1, 2015

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Our Mission
Working with and
through our State
Associations, NSBA
Advocates for Equity
and Excellence in
Public Education
through School Board
Leadership

Re: Support for the "Every Student Succeeds Act"

Office of Advocacy

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

John D. Tuttle
President

The National School Boards Association (NSBA), representing more than 90,000 local school board members across the nation, working with and through our state associations, supports passage of the "Every Student Succeeds Act," and applauds the work of the Conference Committee for its bipartisan effort to modernize the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA). Chairman John Kline and Senior Democratic Member Bobby Scott have led the process in the House to develop legislation that will positively affect the educational outcomes of our nation's 50 million public school students, the performance of our more than 13,000 public school districts, and the success of both our communities and our nation. We urge your support for the passage of the "Every Student Succeeds Act."

Thomas J. Gentzel
Executive Director

Michael C. Zola
Associate Executive Director

School board members are encouraged by the diligence of House and Senate education committee leaders to achieve a complete modernization for ESEA that will supersede the current waiver system, which was administered in lieu of reauthorization. The legislation addresses key concerns for school boards: local governance and flexibility that support innovative programs and effectiveness for continued gains in student achievement among all students.

These provisions strengthen all levels of support for our nation's students and public school districts—a welcome change from the current law and its unintended consequences and uncertainty for school districts. Moreover, provisions for local governance, Title I grants for disadvantaged students, maintenance of effort (MOE), and authorization of appropriations that reflect the budgetary allocations of the recent *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015* address several of the policy positions adopted by NSBA's Delegate Assembly.

We are now closer than we have ever been in the last eight years to producing a new law that addresses both equity and excellence to help our school boards provide the high-quality public education that all our children deserve and need to be successful adults and citizens.

Thank you, as well as Chairman Kline and Senior Democratic Member Scott, for leading this historic reauthorization for a modernized *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*.

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Again, we encourage your vote in favor of the legislation, and look forward to working with you and the Administration to implement the "Every Student Succeeds Act."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Gentzel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Thomas J. Gentzel
Executive Director